

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01

SAM-01 DRC-01 /150 W

----- 006992

P R 011535Z MAY 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 945

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 274

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IZ

SUBJECT: KUDRISH CONFLICT

REF: BAGHDAD 259

1. BAGHDAD PRESS MAY 1 CARRIED SMALL ITEM STATING THAT
DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF DOHUK PROVINCE HAD VISITED ZAKHO
TO MEET WITH CITIZENS AND GET ACQUAINTED WITH THEIR NEEDS.
THIS IS ONLY REFERENCE TO REPORT OF SUCCESSFUL RELIEF ON
APRIL 29 OF 1,000 MAN GARRISON THAT HAS BEEN BESIEGED BY
PESH MAEGA SINCE MID-MARCH.

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2. ACCORDING TO TURKISH MILITARY ATTACHE COLONEL

ARDOGHAN, IT TOOK IRAQI RELIEF FORCE OF THREE BRIGADES
TEN DAYS TO PENETRATE MOUNTIAN PASSES SOUTH OF DOHUK.
A/C USED EXTENSIVELY AND ATTACKED KURDS WITH NAPALM.
MAIN BORDER CROSSING TO TURKEY NEAR ZAKHO NOW FULLY IN
GOI CONTROL ACCORDING TO ARDOGHAN.

3. INDIAN EMBOFF NAIRAM, WHOSE INFO COMES FROM SENIOR INDIAN
OFFICER TRAINING IRAQI AF, SAID AF IS ON FULL ALERT AND MIG-
21S ARE FLYING FROM TIKRIT ARMED WITH AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES.
HE HAD NO INFO ON A/C LOSSES, BUT FRENCH COUNSELLOR TOLD
ME AF HAD LOST AT LEAST 2 HELICOPTERS AND 1 SU-7.

4. SEVEN KURDISH STUDENTS ARRESTED APRIL 29 FOR PLACING
BOMBS IN ATLAS CINEMA AND AIRPORT REST ROOMS. FIVE SENTENCED
TO DEATH AND TWO ACQUITTED. THEIR INDIVIDUAL FILMED
CONFESSIONS SHOWN ON BAGHDAD TV APRIL 30. BOMBS WOUNDED
SOME PEOPLE BUT WE HAVE HEARD OF NO DEATHS. EVEN BEFORE
BOMBING, SECURITY PRECAUTIONS TAKEN IN BAGHDAD CINEMAS;
E.G. NO ONE CAN LEAVE UNTIL END OF FILM.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE LARGE SCALE ATTACK TO RELIEVE ZAHKO
AND APPARENT INCREASED BOMBING ACTIVITY BY AIR FORCE, GOI
APPARENTLY STILL EXERCISING RESTRAINT AND IN NO HURRY TO
LAUNCH MAJOR OFFENSIVE. NEXT AREA OF CRUCIAL
IMPORTANCE LIKELY TO BE NORTHERN BORDER WITH IRAN. RCC
VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN ON APRIL 25 CALLED FOR COMPLETE
ECONOMIC BOYCOTT OF BARZANI CONTROLLED TERRITORY. ONLY
WAY THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED IS BY DISRUPTING FLOW OF SUPPLIES
COMING FROM IRAN. SINCE THIS TERRIAN IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT
AND USE OF FROUND TROOPS UNLIKELY, GOI MAY ATTEMPT TO
DISRUPT TRAFFIC WITH AIR FORCE IN WHICH CASE IT RISKS
IRANIAN REACTION.

6. VOICE OF KURDISTAN ANNOUNCED LAST NIGHT (MAY1) THAT
PESH MERGA HAD BLOWN UP SOME OF KIRKUK OIL INSTALLATIONS
BECAUSE OF AF BOMBING OF VILLAGES. TOGETHER WITH BOMBINGS
IN BAGHDAD EVENING OF APRIL 28, THESE ACTS REPRESENTS ANOTHER
STEP IN ESCALATION AND SEEM CERTAIN TO RESULT IN NEW
GOVERNMENT REPRISALS.

LOWRIE

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Message Attributes

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